



Associated Students of Columbia University

G.S. STUDENT COUNCIL

Website: <https://gssc.gs.columbia.edu/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/yourgssc/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/yourgssc>

Contact Email: GSSC@columbia.edu

Meeting Location: Zoom, <https://columbiauniversity.zoom.us/j/96765829244>

GENERAL STUDIES STUDENT COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

September 28th 8:15PM

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **General Studies Student Council of Columbia University** will hold a **REGULAR** meeting on **September 28th** at **8:15PM**. The meeting information is noted below. The General Studies Student Council reserves the right to suspend the orders of the day if necessary to conduct business. All General Studies Student Council meetings are held in locations that are wheelchair accessible. Other disability-related accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities upon request. Persons requesting such accommodations should notify the General Studies Student Council Chair at sat2198@columbia.edu no less than three (3) working days prior to the meeting. The General Studies Student Council will make efforts to meet requests made after such date, if possible. Please also contact the General Studies Student Council Chair for any agenda related questions.

I. ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Call To Order

B. Roll Call (* → indicates non-voting | ~ → indicates Interim Position)

OFFICERS	STATUS	OFFICERS	STATUS
*President Serengeti Timungwa	P	VP of Finance Simas Chacar-Palubinskas	P
Chief of Finance Alan Han	P	VP of Policy Kambi Gathesha	E
Chief of Policy Stephanie Pierre	P	VP of Campus Life Cole Wagner	P
Chief of Campus Life Emily Robinson	P	VP of Communications Brian Laurito	P
Chief of Communications Siena Milbauer	P	Veteran Students Rep Alejandro Rojas	P
Int'l Students Rep Carol Chen	P	University Senator Jeremy Wahl	P
Senior Class President Rachel Harris	P	Senior Class VP Nick Li	P
Senior Class Treasurer Garrett Gregor-Splaver	P	1st Year Class President Nasser Odetallah	P
1st Year Class VP Han Qing	P	Health & Wellness Representative Kaya Kim	U
External Events Chair Alex Starzyk	P	Family and Working Students Rep Shatize Pope	P
Alumni Affairs Rep Mike Kim	P	Dual B.A./Joint Program Rep Evan Rork	P
Community Services & Sustainability Rep Faith Grady	P	Treasurer June Lim	P

JTS Rep Josh Brunnlehrmann	E	Student Services/Academic Affairs Rep Andre Moutafov	P
Diversity & Equity Rep Rubaab Poonawala	P	Students w/Disabilities Rep Erin O'Bannon	P
Tech Chair Catherine Sun	P	Social Media Rep	
*Legislative Assistant Ferdinando Castro Gonzalez	P	*Legislative Assistant	
*Advisor Sean Trulby		Chief Negotiator Katie Peters	P
*Advisor Ashley Johnson		Voting Members: 30 / Quorum: → 20 / Total: 28	

C. Adoption of the Current Agenda for September 28th, 2021 -> Passed

II. REPORTS

A. President

1. Appointments

a) Kyle Gordon for Legislative Assistant

- (1) Believes representation for GS is key to enacting policies that benefit our students
- (2) Has similar experiences and background as many in GS' student body, wants to bring light to underrepresented populations
- (3) Hopes for foundational knowledge of University procedures
- (4) Prior experience as legislative assistant
 - (a) Serengeti question for Kyle: Any competing deadlines you've handled before? How would you balance school work with this position?
 - (i) Previous work experience has given ability to manage time effectively, able to prioritize deadlines based on importance
 - (b) Ferdinando question for Kyle: Could you expand on your motivation and focus on representation?
 - (i) Comes from previous experiences, wanting to ensure that others feel their voices matter

b) Lisa Cardoso for Social Media Rep

- (1) Previous experience in promoting engagement on campus
- (2) Two digital marketing internships which gave foundation in social media marketing, content creation; experience using multiple social platforms
- (3) Commitment to transparency
 - (a) Evan question for Lisa: Any benchmarks for growth of GSSC's platforms?
 - (i) Hopes to increase engagement more so than follower count
 - (b) Carol question for Lisa: Any ideas on social media takeovers?
 - (i) Wants to understand campus culture; would love to hear about what's worked previously
 - (c) Brian's question: Why do you want to join GSSC?

- (ii) Believes it's important to give a voice to low income students on council and include them in the decision making process

B. Policy Committee

1. No Updates

C. Communications Committee

1. Join Slack
 - a) This will be our main mode of communication within the GSSC. If you haven't already, please join. The link to join is here:
https://join.slack.com/t/gssc21-22/shared_invite/zt-w7xpdt-dv-Q2jB1v-yuYcK3QdAKfyiSdg
2. Send VP of Communications your photo/blurb
 - a) These will be used for our social media and the member directory on our website
 - b) Please include:
 - (1) A professional/semi-professional photo of yourself
 - (2) A short blurb (around 5 sentences) that includes
 - (a) Major
 - (b) Academic Year (Freshman, Sophomore, etc.)
 - (c) Approximate Graduation Year
 - (d) Any interests (Hobbies, fun facts about yourself, etc.)
 - (e) Goals for your position (What are you hoping to accomplish this year?)

D. Finance Committee

1. Budget Proposal Presentation
 - a) Need to maintain full transparency of how we allocate student funds
 - b) Fiscal baseline: \$650,120 (based on expected revenue)
 - (1) Allocated \$30,000 for Travel
 - (2) Allocated \$20,000 to Dean of Students Transfer
 - (3) Budget guide available (linked at bottom of spreadsheet) to breakdown each line item
 - c) Certain allocations are sponsored with student groups or with other undergraduate schools
 - d) Discretionary Reserves: nearly \$118,000
 - (1) When planning events, we're going to encounter hurdles. We need flexibility in our budget and the ability to spend above what we've predicted. Reserves give us greater flexibility.
 - e) Question from Evan about NSOP
 - (1) Not paid by us-the line item is about the welcome back party that GSSC usually hosts during NSOP but that event was not able to go forward this year
 - f) Carol: Do we have a spending limit?
 - (1) Largest expense is Gala and then Senior Cruise
 - (a) This year's Gala will be larger likely as recent graduates may be invited to attend
 - (2) No limit but within reason

- (a) Keeping in mind the reasonableness/optics of spending a ton of money on a single-evening event
- g) Rachel: Are the facilities/securities funds divided evenly between Fall and Spring? If we can't have in-person meetings, can we petition for lowered facilities fund?
 - (1) These numbers have not been finalized.
 - (2) It would be harder to argue that we should stop paying facilities fees because Columbia has not restricted student events as heavily as they have in the past (especially for outdoor events)
 - (3) We can look into it but we can't do it unilaterally
- h) Andre: Breakdown of Potential Revenue sources
 - (1) Student Activities Fee
 - (a) Estimate of collection from students in \$211,618 for Spring 2022
 - (2) Tickets to certain events will also function as additional revenue source

E. Campus Life Committee

1. Full calendar likely incoming within a fortnight
2. Snack Attack Budget Allocation
 - a) \$12,500 (grand a day for the midterms, grand and change for finals)
 - b) Will use traditional snack attack vendors (check in with them about COVID-19 precautions)
 - c) First installment will be Oct 25 (could use breakfast volunteers)
3. MilVets Halloween Mixer
 - a) Max 75 people for Dodge event space
 - b) About \$1,275 for food + \$150 kosher and gluten free food, 2 \$50 gift cards for costume contest
 - c) Waiting for MilVets estimates on event space cost
 - (1) Question from Stephanie: Can there be something for folks who don't get into the reservation pool?
 - (a) 75 is the max COVID allowed #; but potential for Zoom participation (movie? Although movie comes with complicated rental procedure)
 - (2) Question from Serengeti: Capacity in tents is 75 but *student group* guest lists can't go over 50?
 - (a) Listing on UEM Events page says tent space outside of Dodge has capacity of 75; will clarify with Ashley on Friday
 - (3) Question from Katie: Google hang to tune in and watch movie through students' own accounts? Also, could we reserve two areas to accommodate more students?
 - (a) Could do it, would be challenging to coordinate (but will look into it)
 - (4) Comment from Ferdinando: People without Netflix wouldn't be able to access the film if we used Google Hang/Netflix Party
 - (5) Comment from Mae: Overflow able to go to Dodge Plaza; public domain films potential for streaming (likely to be more family-friendly as well). Question: Are we doing a family Halloween party? Question: Scholarships for events?

- (a) Endorsing public domain film idea
- (b) Family Halloween; we don't have anything planned yet but could maybe cook something up (how to manage the COVID-19 situation would be a conundrum)
 - (i) Simas: We currently cannot finance any events for non-CUID holding folks
 - (ii) Subsidized tickets aren't on the budget; they do exist, but the Student Life Office administers that
- (6) Comment from Alex: Could do part of the costume giveaway via social media (to be more inclusive of families/non-physical attendees)
 - (a) We and MilVets can each sponsor two giveaways
- (7) Nick: Promote accessible, public events that aren't affiliated with public institutions

F. University Senator

- 1. No Updates

III. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Motion to approve the Annual GSSC Budget
 - 1. Motion passes
- B. Motion to approve Snack Attacks Budget
 - 1. Motion passes

IV. STANDING BUSINESS

- A. No Updates

V. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

This time is reserved for any General Studies Student Council Members to make announcements on items not on the agenda. A time limit of three (3) minutes per speaker and (25) twenty five minutes total shall be observed. **NO** action will be taken and the total time limit for this item shall not be extended.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

This segment of the meeting is reserved for persons desiring to address the General Studies Student Council on any matter of concern that is not stated on the agenda. A time limit of three (3) minutes per speaker and ten (10) minutes per topic shall be observed. The law does not permit any action to be taken, nor extended discussion of any items not on the agenda. The General Studies Student Council may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed, however, for further information, please contact the General Studies Student Council President at sat2198@columbia.edu for the item of discussion to be placed on a future agenda. (Brown Act §54954.3)

- DG: Potential violations of GSSC Constitution during elections?
 - Serengeti: Everyone was rightfully elected and appointed. Suspension of rule to allow candidates to run unopposed was deemed necessary to allow GSSC to function in the Fall (Candidates whose elections would have been impacted recused themselves from the vote)
 - Ferdinando: Let's maintain decorum, not point blame

- Nick: We had to consider factors such as students taking gap years, affecting how large turnout could be
- Mae: GSSC should be inclusive and allow the student body to participate, ensure that students are aware of meeting times and welcome to come/participate
- Rae: There was a special election last year because in certain cases, when there aren't more than two candidates that election is voided. The special election was to allow these candidates to be elected despite these circumstances

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

This closed session is reserved for any General Studies Student Council Members to discuss and possibly take action on voting in the nominees for various, posted, council vacancies. The public, and the nominees, will be asked to step out of the room while the council conducts this business.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT